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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The next potato crop in the DDR is expected to yield some 11.5 million tons of potatoes. It was planned to plant 820,645.0 hectares and 818,680.67 were actually planted, so that, practically speaking, the goals aimed at will be reached.
2. The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as well as the police, first learned of the story concerning the dropping of potato bugs by US planes from the Information Office of the DDR, that is to say, from the daily press. There were already agricultural experts on hand in the areas of the greatest concentration of bugs before these reports were made public, and these technicians had reported the appearance of unusual numbers of these insects. No experts in the field of plant protection (Pflanzenschutzfachmann) either from the Land Offices or from the Ministry were appointed to the Commission which has been set up to investigate the bug drops. All informed agricultural officials know that the increased appearance of bugs this year is due to natural causes. First, the areas of crops affected by the potato bugs are increasing in size from west to east at a rate of 50Km per year; second, there was a particularly warm early spring in 1950, which is especially conducive to the spread and appearance of the insect; and third, the potato bug makes its appearance in large numbers every third year, of which this year is the third in this period. In June 1949 there were approximately 38,000 places where the bugs turned up as opposed to 67,000 in September 1949, in about 6,600 localities. In June 1950, however, the places where bugs turned up were reported from 6,400 localities and it is expected that there will be some 12,000 localities reported in the Fall of 1950, indicating that approximately twice as many bugs are to be expected this year as opposed to last year.

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